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AN UNEXPECTED HIGH PREVALENCE OF NON-INVESTIGATED DYSPEPSIA IN BRAZIL: A POPULATION-BASED STUDY

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Introduction: is unknown the national prevalence of Non-Investigated Dyspepsia (NID) in south america countries with high prevalence of H. pylori Objective: To estimate the prevalence of NID on Brazilian population, a country with an estimated prevalence of Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) higher than 60%. Methods: Population-based cross-sectional survey sampled by two steps. First: phone numbers were randomly chosen in houses that were sampled through a simple probabilistic method among 223 cities, encompassing 83.5 million inhabitants, sampling approximately 51% of the Brazilian population. In the second step, phone calls were done and the attendant person asked about all housemates with ages between 16 and 65 years (y). Among them, a second simple probabilistic sampling was done to choose the person to be interviewed. Interviews were conducted by trained researchers using a standardized questionnaire. A modification of the ROME II modulate questionnaire was used to define noninvestigated dyspepsia for the purpose of this study. Results: 1510 persons were interviewed, with a mean age of 37.6y (SD13.8y). The prevalence of NID in the entire sample was 48%. In males, the prevalence was 38.1%, and in females 54.1%. Not considering isolated nausea and vomits questions as dyspeptic manifestations, according Rome III criteria, these prevalences would be 40.9%, 33.2% and 45.6%, respectively. The prevalence also varied by age (52% in subjects 16-40y and 43.2% in subjects 40-65y) (P=0.001). Conclusions: This first population-based nation wide survey conducted in South America estimates that the prevalence of NID is higher than in studies conducted in Western developed countries. The sex distribution is similar to previous epidemiological studies from low-prevalence H. pylori countries. Whether this unexpected high prevalence of non-investigated dyspepsia in Brazil is explained by the presence of this bacteria, remains to be further explored by future studies.